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AUTHOR Berliner, David C.; Biddle, Bruce J.
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ABSTRACT

The 1983 report "A Nation at Risk" exposed an alleged crisis in the United States educational system. This book argues that the American school system is not really in as bad a shape as reported by the media and other government and industry sources. The book admits the existence of problems in the educational system, but insists that many of the charges levied against the schools are not true, and that those charges fail to address the real dilemmas that American educators face. Following an introduction to the issues, chapter 2 counters myths about achievement and aptitude including the myth that achievement has declined. Chapter 3 considers other myths about education, including the myths that money spent on education has not been spent well and that private schools are inherently better than public schools. Chapter 4 examines the context of the myths, and chapter 5 explores the probable outcomes if the manufactured crisis and major reform proposals are adopted. Chapters 6 and 7 explore social problems, discussion of which may be masked by discussion of education. Chapter 8 takes up principles for real educational improvement. (Contains 68 exhibits and 542 references.) (LMI)

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